

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 13927 311605Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 EB-08 SP-02 L-03
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9740

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NEA/EGY FOR AMBASSADOR EILTS

DEPT. PASS AGRICULTURE/OGSM AND AID

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, EAGR, EG
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN WHEAT/WHEAT FLOUR REQUIREMENTS FOR
- CY-1978

REF: CAIRO 10856

1. IN RESPONSE TP TELEPHONE REQUEST FROM AMBASSADOR
FOR REVIEW OF EGYPTIAN WHEAT/WHEAT FLOUR REQUIREMENTS,
AGATTACHE HAS OBTAINED FOLLOWING ESTIMATES FROM UNDER-
SECRETARY AHMED EL DAKKAK, GENERAL AUTHORITY FOR SUPPLY
COMMODITIES, MINISTRY OF SUPPLY. ALL DATA IS SHOWN IN
1,000 METRIC TONS AND ALL DATA FOR WHEAT FLOUR ON GRAIN
EQUIVALENT BASIS, CONVERTED AT 75 PERCENT EXTRACTION RATE.

- WHEAT REQUIREMENTS FOR REMAINDER CY-1978 3,494
- STOCKS ON 5/17 403
- UNSHIPED UNDER EXISTING CON- 1,784
- TRACTS (1)

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- TO BE PURCHASED 1,307
- TOTAL WHEAT 3,494
- WHEAT FLOUR REQUIREMENTS FOR REMAINDER 1,088
- CY-1978

- STOCKS ON 5/17 263
- UNSHIIPPED UNDER EXISTING CON- 418
- TRACTS (2)
- TO BE PURCHASED 407
- TOTAL WHEAT FLOUR 1,088

- TOTAL WHEAT AND WHEAT FLOUR REQUIREMENTS FOR
- REMAINDER CY-1978 4,582

- LESS STOCKS ON 5/17 666

- IMPORT REQUIREMENTS REMAINDER CY-1978 3,916

- (1) CONTRACTS FOR WHEAT TO DATE INCLUDE 852 FROM U.S. UNDER TITLE I, PL-480; 1,000 FROM AUSTRALIA; AND 800 FROM OTHER SOURCES, FOR TOTAL OF 2,652.

- (2) CONTRACTS FOR WHEAT FLOUR TO DATE INCLUDE 467 FROM U.S. UNDER TITLE I, PL-480; 355 FROM EUROPE; AND 31 FROM FRANCE, FOR TOTAL OF 853.

2. WHEN FOOTNOTES (1) AND (2) ABOVE ARE COMBINED, TOTAL CONTRACTED TO DATE FOR CY-1978 AMOUNTS TO 3,505. SUBTRACTING TOTAL QUANTITY NOT YET SHIPPED OF 2,202 INDICATES IMPORTS DURING PERIOD 1/1-5/17 OF 1,303. ACCORDINGLY, FOLLOWING ESTIMATES OF TOTAL IMPORTS DURING CY-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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1978 AND SUPPLY/DISTRIBUTION CALCULATIONS FOR PERIOD 5/17-12/31 CAN BE MADE.

- WHEAT/WHEAT FLOUR IMPORTS 1/1-5/17 1,303

- STOCKS ON 5/17 666
- IMPGRTS 5/17-12/31 3,916

- SUPPLY 4,582

- CONSUMPTION 5/17-12/31 (1) 3,375
- ENDING STOCKS 12/31 1,207

- DISTRIBUTION 4,582

- TOTAL WHEAT/WHEAT FLOUR IMPORTS CY-1978 5,218

- (1) CALCULATED AT 450 PER MONTH - SEE REFTEL.

3. AT FIRST GLANCE, TOTAL IMPORTS OF 5,218 APPEAR RIDICULOUSLY OUT OF LINE WITH OUR CURRENT ESTIMATE OF 4,600. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING MINSUPPLY

FIGURES IS STOCK INCREASE FROM 666 ON 5/17 TO 1,207
ON 12/31. LATTER WOULD AMOUNT TO 2.68 MONTHS OF CON-
SUMPTION. MINSUPPLY HAS CONSISTENTLY STATED (SEE REFTTEL)
THAT 3.0 MONTHS OF CONSUMPTION IS DESIRABLE LEVEL AND
2.5 IS ABSOLUTE MINIMUM. ACCORDINGLY, WE JUDGE THAT
IMPORT NEEDS FOR CONSUMPTION ONLY CONTINUE AROUND LEVEL
OF 4,600, WITH ADDITIONAL 600 DESIRED BY GOE TO BUILD
STOCKS TO LEVEL THEY CONSIDER NECESSARY. MATTHEWS

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